

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1-3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) A speaker terminal, comprising:

one or more plug loading slots each having a front end of which opens into a substantially same sectional shape as a sectional contour of a plug for speaker cables to be inserted, wherein said slots comprise a plurality of sides selected from a top, a bottom and right and left sides;

an engaging projection for latching and supporting an engaging portion of an engaging lever of a plug to be inserted and that is disposed at the front end of an opening edge in said respective plug loading slots; and

contact pieces of terminals of positive and negative poles for speakers being disposed on an inmost recessed wall surface of said plug loading slots so as to be horizontal with respect to the front end of said opening;

wherein an opening wall of said front end of said plug loading slot engages and supports the engaging portion of the engaging lever of the plug to be inserted;

wherein at least one of said top, bottom and right and left sides includes a convex region that guides insertion and removal of a plug, and further prevents inadvertent contact with the contact pieces.

5. (Previously Presented) A speaker terminal according to claim 4 wherein extreme ends of contact pieces of terminals of positive and negative poles are disposed with a difference in their distances from the front end of the opening in said plug loading slots.

6. (Previously Presented) A speaker terminal according to claim 4, comprising at least two plug loading slots, wherein said plug loading slots are disposed in symmetrical disposition.

7. (Original) A speaker terminal according to claim 4 wherein front external surfaces of said plug loading slots for respective channels are colored separately.

8. (Previously Presented) A speaker terminal according to claim 4 wherein a shield plate is disposed in the front surface thereof except for each of said plug loading slots.

9. (New) A speaker terminal according to claim 1 wherein said convex region is V-shaped.